This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1-6 (Previously canceled).

Claim 7 (Currently amended): A safety device comprising:

a needle receiving portion;

a sheath portion including first and second legs, the first and second legs having proximal ends supported by the needle receiving portion and distal ends spaced from the needle receiving portion, the first and second legs being movable from a first position in which the distal ends of the first and second legs are spaced from the needle receiving portion a first distance to a second position in which the distal ends of the first and second legs are spaced from the needle receiving portion a second distance, wherein the first distance is greater than the second distance; and

a trigger supported adjacent to the proximal ends of the first and second legs, wherein the trigger is movable into sliding engagement with the first and second legs to move the first and second legs from the first position to the second position.

Claim 8 (Previously presented): A safety device according to Claim 7, further including a plate supported on a distal portion of the first and second legs, the plate defining a bore dimensioned to slidably receive a needle.

Claim 9 (Previously presented): A safety device according to Claim 7, wherein the first and second legs flex outwardly when the legs are moved from the first position to the second position.

Claim 10 (Previously presented): A safety device according to Claim 7, wherein the

proximal ends of the first and second legs are hingedly connected to the needle receiving portion, the trigger being movable to a position between the first and second legs to urge the first and second legs apart and move the distal ends of the first and second legs from the first position to the second position.

Claim 11 (Previously presented): A safety device according to Claim 10, wherein the trigger includes a lever having first end attached to the needle receiving portion and a second end positioned adjacent the proximal ends of the first and second legs.

Claim 12 (Previously presented): A safety device according to Claim 7, further including at least one engagement surface positioned on the proximal end of the sheath portion, and wherein the trigger includes at least one engaging portion, the at least one engaging portion being movable into engagement with the at least one engagement surface of the sheath to retain the trigger in engagement with the first and second legs of the sheath.

Claim 13 (Previously presented): A safety device according to Claim 12, wherein the at least one engagement surface includes a pair of engagement surfaces.

Claim 14 (Previously presented): A safety device according to Claim 13, wherein each engagement surface of the pair of engagement surfaces includes an angled portion, the angled portions defining a lead-in to facilitate positioning of the trigger between the first and second legs.

Claim 15 (Currently amended): ~~A safety device according to Claim 10, further including~~ A safety device comprising:

a needle receiving portion;

a sheath portion including first and second legs, the first and second legs having proximal

ends supported by the needle receiving portion and distal ends spaced from the needle receiving portion, the first and second legs being movable from a first position in which the distal ends of the first and second legs are spaced from the needle receiving portion a first distance to a second position in which the distal ends of the first and second legs are spaced from the needle receiving portion a second distance, wherein the first distance is greater than the second distance; and

a trigger supported adjacent to the proximal ends of the first and second legs, wherein the trigger is movable into engagement with the first and second legs to move the first and second legs from the first position to the second position; and

a resilient member engaging the first and second legs to urge the first and second legs to their first position[[,]];

wherein the proximal ends of the first and second legs are hingedly connected to the needle receiving portion, the trigger being movable to a position between the first and second legs to urge the first and second legs apart and move the distal ends of the first and second legs from the first position to the second position.

Claim 16 (Previously presented): A safety device according to Claim 15, wherein the resilient member includes a resilient band.

Claim 17 (Previously presented): A safety device according to Claim 16, further including a pair of lugs positioned on the sheath to hold the resilient band in place.

Claim 18 (Previously presented): A safety device according to Claim 10, wherein each of the first and second legs includes a front portion and a rear portion interconnected by a bendable joint.

Claim 19 (Previously presented): A safety device according to Claim 7, wherein the

trigger has a double-curved profile.

Claim 20 (Previously presented): A safety device according to Claim 19, wherein the double-curved profile defines a first radius of curvature and a second radius of curvature, the first radius of curvature being smaller than the first radius of curvature.

Claim 21 (Previously presented): A safety device according to Claim 20, wherein the first radius of curvature is formed on the rear end of the trigger.

Claim 22 (Currently amended): A safety device comprising:

a needle receiving portion;

a sheath portion extending distally from the needle receiving portion, the sheath portion including first and second legs; and

a trigger supported adjacent to a proximal end of the first and second legs;

wherein the sheath portion is movable from an extended position in which the first and second legs shield a distal end of a needle positioned within the needle receiving portion to a primed position in response to movement of the trigger into sliding engagement with the first and second legs, wherein the sheath portion is configured such that in the extended position a longitudinal force acting on a distal end of the sheath portion maintains the sheath portion in the extended position and in the primed position a longitudinal force acting on the distal end of the sheath portion urges the sheath portion to a retracted position in which the distal end of the needle is exposed.

Claim 23 (Previously presented): A safety device according to Claim 22, wherein the first and second legs of the sheath portion are hingedly connected to the needle receiving portion.

Claim 24 (Previously presented): A safety device according to Claim 23, wherein each of

the first and second legs includes a front portion and a rear portion interconnected by a joint.

Claim 25 (Previously presented): A safety device according to Claim 24, wherein the trigger is movable to a position between the first and second legs to urge the respective joints of the first and second legs apart and move the sheath portion to the primed position.

Claim 26 (Previously presented): A safety device according to Claim 25, wherein the trigger includes at least one engaging portion which is positioned to releasably engage an engagement surface of the sheath portion to retain the sheath portion in the primed position.

Claim 27 (Previously presented): A safety device according to Claim 26, wherein movement of the sheath portion from the primed position toward the retracted position disengages the at least one engaging portion of the trigger from the engagement surface of the sheath portion to facilitate movement of the sheath portion to the extended position.

Claim 28 (Currently amended): ~~A safety device according to Claim 22, further including~~ A safety device comprising:

a needle receiving portion;

a sheath portion extending distally from the needle receiving portion, the sheath portion including first and second legs;

a trigger supported adjacent to a proximal end of the first and second legs; and

a resilient member positioned to urge the sheath portion to the extended position.

wherein the sheath portion is movable from an extended position in which the first and second legs shield a distal end of a needle positioned within the needle receiving portion to a primed position in response to movement of the trigger into sliding engagement with the first and second legs, wherein the sheath portion is configured such that in the extended position a

longitudinal force acting on a distal end of the sheath portion maintains the sheath portion in the extended position and in the primed position a longitudinal force acting on the distal end of the sheath portion urges the sheath portion to a retracted position in which the distal end of the needle is exposed.

Claim 29 (Previously presented): A safety device according to Claim 28, wherein the resilient member includes a resilient band.

Claim 30 (Previously presented): A safety device according to Claim 22, wherein the trigger includes a lever having a first end attached to the needle receiving portion and a second end positioned adjacent the proximal ends of the first and second legs.

Claim 31 (Previously presented): A safety device comprising:

a needle receiving portion;

a needle extending from the needle receiving portion;

a sheath portion extending distally from the needle receiving portion, the sheath portion including first and second legs hingedly connected to the needle receiving portion, each of the first and second legs including a front portion and a rear portion interconnected by a joint;

a trigger supported adjacent to a proximal end of the first and second legs, the trigger being movable to a position between the first and second legs to urge the respective joints of the first and second legs apart and move the sheath portion to a primed position, the trigger having at least one engaging portion which is positioned to releasably engage an engagement surface of the sheath portion to retain the sheath portion in the primed position; and

a resilient member positioned to urge the sheath portion to an extended position in which the first and second legs shield a distal end of the needle,

wherein the sheath portion is movable from the extended position to the primed position in response to movement of the trigger into engagement with the first and second legs, the sheath portion being configured such that in the extended position a longitudinal force acting on a distal end of the sheath portion maintains the sheath portion in the extended position and in the primed position a longitudinal force acting on the distal end of the sheath portion urges the sheath portion to a retracted position in which the distal end of the needle is exposed, wherein movement of the sheath portion from the primed position to the retracted position disengages the at least one engaging portion of the trigger from the engagement surface of the sheath portion to facilitate movement of the sheath portion to the extended position.

Claim 32 (Previously presented): A safety device according to Claim 31, further including a plate supported on a distal portion of the first and second legs, the plate defining a bore dimensioned to slidably receive the needle.

Claim 33 (Previously presented): A safety device according to Claim 31, wherein the first and second legs flex outwardly when the legs are moved from the extended position to the primed position.

Claim 34 (Previously presented): A safety device according to Claim 32, wherein the plate is a noseplate which covers the distal end of the needle in the extended position.